

OVERVIEW

Applicants are assessed for adoption by the Department of Health and Human Services or a private contracted child placing agency. The agency conducting the assessment either:

- Approves the family as appropriate for adoption and holds the application until a specific child is identified.
- Denies the family because they do not meet the requirements for adoption of any child.

Note: If a family has applied for adoption of a specific Michigan Children's Institute (MCI) ward, the adoption worker makes a **recommendation** to the MCI superintendent or his or her designee and the MCI superintendent or his or her designee makes a final determination of approval or denial for consent to adopt; see ADM 0870, Denial of MCI Consent to Adopt a Specific Child.

Statement of Approval or Denial

The BCAL-3130, Initial Foster Home/Adoption Evaluation, or DHS-1926, Preliminary Adoptive Family Assessment, must include the agency's statement of recommended approval or denial based on the information provided in the assessment. The statement must include:

- If approved, a description of the number, sex, age, race, ethnic background, and special characteristics of adoptive children who may be placed in the adoptive applicant home.
- If denied, a specific basis for the decision.
- Signature of the adoption worker or person completing the assessment and the date signed.
- Supervisor's signature and the date signed.

Note: If the assessment results in a recommendation to the Michigan Children's Institute superintendent to deny consent to a current foster parent/relative caregiver, a second-line supervisor's signature and date signed is required.

Denial Notice

Adoptive applicants must be informed in writing by the child placing agency if they are not approved for adoption and the reason(s) for the denial. The DHS-605, Recommendation to Deny Consent, must be used to notify the adoptive applicants and a copy of the completed BCAL 3130, Initial Foster Home/Adoption Evaluation, or DHS-1926, Preliminary Adoptive Family Assessment, must be attached.

**Denial Notification
Requirements**

The DHS-605, Recommendation to Deny Consent, notifies the adoptive applicant(s) that if they applied for adoption of a specific child, the recommendation will be sent to the superintendent of the Michigan Children's Institute (MCI), who will make the final consent decision. The DHS-605 also informs the adoptive applicant(s) that they may provide additional information directly to the MCI.

The DHS-605, Recommendation to Deny Consent, must be sent along with the consent packet to the MCI superintendent for a consent decision on **all** cases, even if the adoption worker has submitted a DHS-309, Line of Service Action Plan, for a recommended adoptive family or if there is currently no identified competing party.